

23. (Amended) A traction drive for an elevator system, the elevator system including a car and a counterweight, the traction drive ~~including~~ comprising:  
~~a traction sheave driven by a machine and a tension member interconnecting the~~  
car and counterweight, the tension member comprising a load carrying rope and a polyurethane coating encasing the load carrying rope, the tension member having a width w, a thickness t measured in the bending direction, and an engagement surface defined on the polyurethane coating by the width dimension of the tension member, wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, of greater than one; and  
a traction sheave driven by a machine, the traction sheave including a traction surface configured to receive the engagement surface of the tension member such that the traction between the sheave and the tension member moves the car and counterweight.

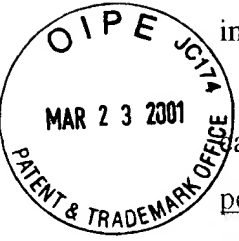
24. (Amended) The traction drive according to Claim 23, wherein the tension member ~~further includes a plurality of the individual load carrying ropes encased within a common layer of the coating, the coating layer separating the individual ropes and defining the engagement surface for the tension member.~~

35. (Amended) The traction drive according to Claim ~~24~~23, wherein the ropes ~~are~~ is formed from non-metallic material.

39. (Amended) The traction drive according to Claim 23, wherein the maximum rope pressure of the load carrying ropes is approximately defined by the following equation:

$$P_{\max} = (2F/Dw)$$

Where F is the tension in the tension member and D is the diameter of the traction sheave.



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